



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Pearl Harbor Employee, Shipyard Win Navywide Awards for Excellence in Public Affairs

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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – A Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard employee and her command won Navywide recognition for excellence in public affairs during 2008. On June 11, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) announced Liane Nakahara as the winner of the Thompson-Ravitz Award for Junior Civilian Public Affairs Officer of the Year. In addition, the Shipyard won first place for its centennial celebration in the category of special events and observances by large shore commands.

Nakahara and other winners received their awards four days earlier during a Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO) training symposium in the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Va. This was done before the CNO public announcement so it would be a surprise for recipients.

“It was awesome,” said Nakahara of the awards ceremony attended by about 400 Navy public affairs professionals from Navy commands worldwide. “(The winners’) accomplishments were read aloud before all these people and some of us got a standing ovation.”

When Nakahara went up on the stage to receive her award, CHINFO Rear Adm. Frank Thorp IV remarked that what she had done must’ve been a lot of hard work. Nakahara said, “I

told him, ‘Yes, it was hard work, but it was also fun. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have done it.’ Then he repeated what I said to everybody.”

Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), congratulated Nakahara in his all-hands message June 12 to the 50,000-plus NAVSEA workforce. “We need young professionals like this to communicate the importance of NAVSEA contributions to our warfighters,” he wrote. “Keep up the great work.”

The Shipyard celebrated its 100th birthday in 2008. According to her citation, Nakahara was a GS-5 public affairs specialist during most of that time, but she performed at a GS-11 level or higher in supporting centennial-related events throughout the year.

In addition to her already challenging normal duties, she researched, wrote and laid out a 16-page commemorative edition of the Shipyard’s employee newspaper. She edited and provided content for an unprecedented 36-page tabloid-sized insert in the Honolulu Advertiser, the state’s leading newspaper. She also co-designed and published the Shipyard’s centennial calendar.

Nakahara supported many media requests, interviews and visits to ensure coverage of centennial events, provided photography and essential graphics services, and served as a Shipyard tour guide.

The Shipyard earned the Thompson-Ravitz Award in the special events category for the innovative and successful year-long celebration of its centennial. The Shipyard’s Congressional and Public Affairs Office (CPAO) developed the centennial celebration plan that included a wide range of activities centered around the Shipyard birth date of May 13, 1908.

During the centennial year the CPAO, a small Centennial Executive Steering Committee, and hundreds of Shipyard volunteers worked together to make this plan a success. Activities

included a formal ball, an historical symposium at Ala Moana Hotel, the “Birthday Bash” celebration attended by nearly 5,000, a special centennial apprentice class graduation, the first Shipyard “Family Day” open house since 1999, more than 20 public speeches, and production of two Shipyard history books.

The CPAO coordinated news media coverage, such as special Shipyard tributes on TV stations KHON2 and KGMB9, feature stories in Honolulu and Hawaii magazines, and a 36-page centennial tabloid produced by the Honolulu Advertiser and distributed to nearly 500,000 readers in Hawaii.

The CPAO also coordinated centennial proclamations by the governor, the state legislature, the mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and recognition by both houses of Congress.

Shipyard Congressional and Public Affairs Officer Kerry Gershaneck noted Thompson-Ravitz award winners undergo a rigorous selection process. “We are very honored -- and humbled,” he said. “These awards mean a great deal to the morale of our Shipyard workforce.”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$620 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. The Shipyard, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy’s surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.